

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9, as follows:

If a fixed set of modulation schemes and/or coding rates (MCSs) is used, then the number of data packets to be transmitted during a transmission interval is a factor of the number of spreading codes used. In using the acronym MCS, it is preferred that both the modulation scheme and coding rate are preferably adapted based on current communications conditions. However, it is to be understood that only one of the modulation scheme and coding rate may be ~~adopted~~ adapted.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 14, as follows:

The number of bits generated by the puncturing block 20 is  $(S \cdot N_{\text{tot}}/R)$ . The modulator block 22 maps these bits into points belonging to the selected signal constellation in accordance with the selected MCS. Commonly used signal constellations include for example QPSK, 8-PSK, 16-QAM, 64-QAM, etc. A signal constellation consisting of  $M$  points uses  $\log_2(M)$  constellation points. The transmitter 26 transmits the modulated information over the channel 28 for detection by the receiver ~~50~~ 20. Controller 24 handles any ARQ retransmissions.